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DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT NESTS



YOUNG DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANTS

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BIRD NOTES FROM SOUTHERN WISCONSIN

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Any restricted area in our latitude that combines rugged, heavily wooded bluffs, large marshes, sandy prairies and other waste lands, with lakes, creeks, rivers, sloughs, and wooded bottoms, is certain to have a varied and abundant bird population. Such a place is found in south-central Wisconsin, within a radius of fifteen miles of the villages of Prairie du Sac and Sauk City, where Sauk, Columbia, and Dane Counties border on the Wisconsin River.

A residence of five years and various collecting trips prior to 1913 had made me familiar with the region and awake to its bird study possibilities. Therefore the opportunity of re-visiting this favorite section — and renewing acquaintances both human and avian, was welcomed. Here the greater part of the time was spent from April 9 to June 13, 1921, collecting material for several large bird groups for the Milwaukee Public Museum, and all specimens mentioned as taken on this trip are in the collection of that institution.

One side trip was made to Fox Lake, Dodge County, where I joined Mr. George Shrosbree, Chief Taxidermist of the Museum, on May 17 for ten days in a Great Blue Heron colony, making the necessary collections and studies for a large group of these picturesque birds, and another to a Black-crowned Night Heron colony, near Darlington, Lafayette County, June 3 and 4, on a similar errand. The latter trip was made in company of Messrs. Shrosbree and E. D. Ochsner in the latter's automobile, a fine cross-country drive totalling about one hundred and forty miles.

The remainder of our stay at Prairie du Sac was spent visiting favorable localities in all directions by auto, motor boat, and on foot. We made our headquarters while here at the home of Mr. Ochsner, taxidermist, who has a collection of local birds containing many rarities.

The village is located on the banks of the Wisconsin River, a mile below the huge power dam, completed about 1915. The water is backed up from here for fifteen miles or more, forming Lake Wisconsin, one of the most interesting bodies of water, from an ornithological standpoint, that it was ever my good fortune to visit. Hundreds of acres of heavy bottom timber was flooded, now standing in twelve to twenty or more feet of water, a wierd gray forest, the gaunt skeletons of the larger trees alone remaining. This body of water, a mile and a half to two miles across in some places, must be navigated with caution in stormy weather, being full of snags, and stumps of trees cut off in winter at ice level. This unique lake supports much interesting bird life, being alive at times in spring and fall with migrating water fowl. Here in summer Kingbird nests are to be found over a half mile from shore, in crotches as low as two feet above the water, while Purple Martins and Tree Swallows share the hundreds of natural cavities and old woodpecker holes with Great Crested Flycatchers and even a few English Sparrows! Flickers, Red-headed, Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers also nest here as well as the Great Blue Herons and Double-crested Cormorants, to be described later.

West and northwest of Prairie du Sac lies slightly rolling Sauk Prairie. The southern half is a sandy region, with many uncultivated fields, and knolls covered with coarse bunch grass, natural home of Prairie Hens, Western Meadowlarks, Migrant Shrikes, and in spring, swarms of Lapland Longspurs. This region borders the Wisconsin River valley on the south, with its heavy bottom land timber and backwater sloughs, where Pileated Woodpeckers, Barred Owls, and such southern species as Prothonotary Warblers, Blue-winged Warblers, Yellow-breasted Chat, Red-bellied Woodpeckers and others partial to such environment breed. Here also the rare Kentucky Warbler was taken in 1913 (see Auk, Jan. 1917, p. 67). Back from the river on both sides are extensive savannas or marshes as well as sandy oak ridges.

The north half of Sauk Prairie is a fertile farming section, bordered on the west by wooded sandstone bluffs, inhabited by hawks, owls, Ruffed Grouse and others. North of the prairie is the rugged quartzite range known as the Baraboo Bluffs, which includes the beautiful Devil's Lake region.

This unspoiled range, so rocky and rugged that it still retains much heavy timber, is the source of Otter Creek and

other spring-fed streams, along which such rare Wisconsin-species as Acadian Flycatcher and Louisiana Water-Thrushes breed. Blackburnian, Black-throated Green and other warblers usually breeding farther north are occasionally seen in summer, while Oven-birds, Nashville, Cerulean, Chestnut-sided, and Black and White Warblers breed more or less commonly, and Blue-winged and Golden-winged Warblers may occasionally be seen in mid-summer with their broods. Least Flycatchers, Veeries and Wood Thrushes, and a host of others are common breeders. This range is also a natural stronghold of the birds of prey. Virginia Deer and Banded Rattlesnakes are abundant.

East of the Wisconsin River the rolling hills and fertile valleys of Columbia County are attractive to many species.

The following notes are selected, either for the rarity of the species listed, or for some points of special interest:

Phalacrocorax a. auritus (Double-crested Cormorant).—These “nigger geese,” as they are sometimes called, were common on the Wisconsin River when I first arrived, April 9, and reached their greatest abundance near the last of the month. They frequented certain overhanging trees growing from the river bank below Sauk City that were literally “white-washed,” and a dozen to twenty birds were to be seen here at almost any hour. But by far the greater number frequented Lake Wisconsin near Merrimac and Okee, where as many as seventy-five were seen in one tree. In this dead, partly submerged forest, Great Blue Herons had established a colony of about thirty nests, and in the same trees, but invariably a few feet lower, we counted thirteen cormorant nests on our first visit, April 10. Although on each nest sat a cormorant, with others on the limbs nearby, none of the nests contained eggs at this time, though those of the herons mostly contained incomplete sets. The greater number of nests were bunched in a few trees, one containing seven heron nests and three of the cormorants, and another five of heron and three of cormorant. A severe storm later destroyed a few heron nests and all but six of those of the cormorants. Curiously, though adults were constantly on the nests, it was not till May 1 that we found a complete set of the cormorant eggs, a set of four being collected and others incomplete, seen. Young, just hatched, were found May 26, three being collected, and a “pipped” egg hatched in an incubator. Newly hatched young were winey black above and slightly pinkish below, and polished all over as if with stove

blackening. When first hatched they could open their eyes, though the aperture was little larger than a pinhead. Stomachs of three one-day-old young were found to contain coarse scales and other fish remains. One had the back spine of a fair-sized bullhead in the stomach. By the first week in June most of the migrating cormorants had passed on, leaving those that were nesting and many non-breeding birds around the colony.

Most of the cormorants did their fishing in the shallow bays that extended a considerable distance into what was formerly marsh and tamarack swamp. Here it was a common sight to see fifteen or twenty of these black fellows sitting on some favorite snag or dead tree sunning themselves with partly extended wings, as they digested their last meal.

When they commenced nesting all the adults had full crests and intense bluish-green dottings around their emerald eyes. By the time the young were hatched the adults collected were found to have lost their crests, and the eye ornaments had dimmed somewhat.

Some other interesting facts were brought to light by collecting this material. One fine large individual that had been sitting on four added eggs for a long time, proved to be a male when collected, the smaller, equally glossy bird that usually sat nearby being presumably his mate. But very often he was seen to have a light breasted companion, this bird proving to be a non-breeding male. There were a number of these non-breeders, all more or less mottled on their breasts and necks with lighter feathers.

The stomachs of seven adults shot April 10 all contained fish. Five each held one large bullhead of nearly a pound weight, swallowed spines and all, while each of the others held a pike that would weigh over a pound. Others examined from time to time contained partly digested bullheads or more rarely other fish.

Breathing entirely through their mouths, these birds kept them open wide while flying excitedly around their nests.

Double-crested Cormorants had nested in this region the two preceding years but not before that, according to information I later was able to obtain. Mr. Laurence Keller of Prairie du Sac saw many of these birds, mostly in immature plumage, near three distinct nesting areas in mid-summer of 1920. Others mentioned seeing half grown young sitting on the shore of the lake opposite the colonies in summer. The cormorant nests are

deep and solidly built of good sized sticks, well lined with soft inner bark strips, and were completely "limed" before the eggs were laid. The heron nests in this colony were of very unusual size, due perhaps to the ease with which brittle dead sticks could be obtained nearby.

Branta c. canadensis (Canada Goose).—I was informed that these geese wintered in much larger numbers than is usual on Sauk Prairie, due perhaps to the open winter and lack of deep snows. Many thousands were seen by Ochsner, Albert Gastrow, and me on a row-boat trip April 10, through the flooded woods of Lake Wisconsin. At times flock after flock would rise from different parts of the timber and mill around until the air seemed full of geese. Many hundreds still present on April 20. Three or four small flocks frequented Sauk Prairie until the first week in May. They were extremely regular in their habits in fair weather. Flying to the rye fields from the river bars where they had spent the day, a few minutes before sundown, they would remain until dark. Appearing again in the morning just before sunrise, they would remain and feed until the farmers started to work in the fields. In rainy weather when no teams were out, they remained in the rye most of the day.

Wishing to collect a few fine specimens for a group, Mr. Ochsner and I concealed ourselves in rebuilt corn shocks in a field that they frequented regularly. Soon after daylight a flock of about twenty alighted a few rods in front of my location, followed in a few minutes by about forty that came in with much argument and flapping directly behind. My part of the field, which included a considerable rise in the ground, seemed to be favored by the birds this morning, and I could hear them talking in hoarse undertones as they fed my way. Soon they commenced trooping by in twos and threes, pulling corn off the shocks or standing erect looking for danger. Occasionally they would quarrel a little and none dared to approach one cranky old gander with a lame leg. I scarcely breathed as they commenced to pull at the rear of the shock that concealed me, one finally coming around and peering in, then shying off like a spirited horse from a paper in the road. Though two fine specimens were collected, it was the presence of these wary creatures all about, almost within arms reach, that will linger in the memory. So shy are they that they never returned to this field before leaving for the north, though no other corn was out on the entire prairie.

Ardea herodias (Great Blue Heron).—A flourishing, well-

protected colony of about one hundred and fifty pairs occupy the tallest timber in a large piece of woodland near the shores of Fox Lake, Dodge County. This colony is partly on the property of Mr. Matt. Baird, who is interested in the birds and has protected them. Most of the nests are in living oaks, elms, and maples, from seventy to eighty-five feet above the ground. At the time of our visit, May 17 to 23, the majority held young, from little fellows just hatched, to lusty youngsters a couple of weeks old, while a few contained eggs. Swarms of mosquitoes made Mr. Shrosbree's life miserable below, as he collected the selected specimens of adult herons with his twenty-two rifle, I, meanwhile enjoying (?) the fishy stench among the nests above. We were greatly assisted in the difficult task of securing and lowering the necessary nests and tree sections by Mr. Baird, who is very expert in the tree tops.

The adults of this colony were exceptionally tame, though the great height of the nests and the density of the foliage made intimate studies of the nest life impracticable. Here at least they cannot be considered a menace to the game fish, as all evidence in their nests and in the stomachs of fourteen adults examined, showed that they were subsisting almost exclusively on carp. One large fellow had two perfectly fresh ones nine inches in length in his neck, and another of over eleven inches in his stomach.

Nycticorax nycticorax naevius (Black-crowned Night Heron).—A colony with about fifty occupied nests, three miles from Darlington, Lafayette County, was visited May 2. At this time it was in a thriving condition, most of the nests containing incomplete sets of eggs. On our last visit, June 3 and 4, we were informed that the colony had been "shot up" by boys. The twelve to fifteen remaining nests mostly held young, from little fellows just hatched to large ones climbing on the edges of their nests and on nearby limbs, while a few still held eggs. The adults were now extremely wild and wary.

This colony was located in second growth timber on a side hill a short distance from a small creek and a half mile from the Pecatonica River, on the farm of Mr. Charles Miller, who endeavors to protect them.

Tympanuchus a. americanus (Prairie Chicken).—The morning and evening gatherings of cock Prairie Chickens on some favorite knoll where countless generations before them gathered, fought, "boomed," and strutted, and where their own descendants

will instinctively gather if allowed to live, is an extremely interesting habit, the exact nature of which is imperfectly understood. The "cooing ground" on the sandy west end of Sauk Prairie has been used each Spring for over thirty years to his own knowledge, Mr. Ochsner says, the birds always using the same knoll, whether in rye, stubble, or grown to grass. The following observations were made from a shallow pit dug twenty-five yards from the knoll, while making the necessary studies and collecting the specimens and accessories for a group.

The "cooing" starts sometime the last of March and continues well into June, each day that the weather is suitable. Ochsner and I made about twenty trips mornings and evenings. The birds usually arrive very early, some were on the grounds before daylight two mornings that we tried to beat them, but on other occasions the bulk of them came in shortly after daylight. A few jumps high in the air as if to take the stiffness out of his legs and the bird was ready to perform. In "booming" the head was lowered and well out, wings drooped till their tips touched the ground, tail spread and cocked slightly forward, long neck tufts vertically erected till their tips were close together, and the ornamental eye patches of bright yellow skin extended to the utmost. The wings were quickly shaken, producing a slight rattling sound, the lavender bordered orange neck sacks inflated to the size of small oranges, then comes the resonant C-A-O-O-O-O-O, H-O-O, H-O-O, rising and in the same tones as do, ra, me, of the musical scale. This note carries a long distance on the still morning air. I have heard it over water where the nearest land was nearly two miles away. Two cackling calls, much like those of domestic roosters, were frequently heard when the excitement was high, one a loud ka-ka-ka-ka-ka-a-a-a, and the other a long drawn out q-u-a-h. Sometimes two cocks would "boom" and approach one another sideways in a threatening manner. When actually fighting the tufts were down and neck sacks collapsed. They jump up and down, sometimes completely over one another, dislodging many feathers. When they back away each seems glad that it is over.

In the excitement of their rapid rushes, cooing and combat, others may gather till seven or eight are close together. Then may come a lull, the birds returning to their well trodden stands, each a few feet from his nearest rival, till another fight occurs, and the excitement again runs high. The center of the

knoll, nearly bare of rye, seems to be occupied by the more powerful birds. On two different mornings these birds were seen to leave in a body after about two hours' performance, the vacated center being immediately taken by a half dozen others who had been standing here and there on the outskirts. These presumably weaker roosters kept the ball rolling for another full hour!

Specimens collected were in excellent condition in spite of their strenuous life at this season. Four of the largest weighed exactly two and a half pounds each, and the smallest two and a quarter. As Chapman mentions in "Camps and Cruises" only the cocks gather to perform, at least we saw no hens, though twelve to sixteen roosters were usually present. Late in the season two cocks went through the performance on bunch grass knolls less than a half mile distant, and nearby a lone hen was flushed and collected. Almost every morning the performing birds were harried by a large female Marsh Hawk, apparently only for mischief, as she never came anywhere near making a capture. All the brilliant markings on the assembled roosters instantly vanished on the hawk's appearance, and they would fly only if forced to do so.

The region including this "cooing ground" is full of sand burrs and weeds, some of the fields resting for years between crops. Western Meadowlarks fill the air with their music, and the restless swarms of Lapland Longspurs constantly circle their favorite fields. To complete the picture of a western prairie, I one morning jumped two Jack Rabbits, survivors or descendants of some introduced many years before and supposed to have been long since exterminated.

Falco peregrinus anatum (Duck Hawk).—Some of the most interesting of our season's experience were with these spectacular falcons, one eyrie being located in Sauk County and another in Columbia. For an extended account of these "finds" see Wilson Bulletin for December, 1921.

Falco c. columbarius (Pigeon Hawk).—This little understudy of the Duck Hawk is quite rare in this section. The only one seen was an adult in worn plumage collected near Mazomanie, Dane County, on May 2, 1921. The stomach contained the remains of some kind of sparrow.

Asio wilsonianus (Long-eared Owl).—A nest containing five eggs was found five miles northwest of Prairie du Sac on May 15, in a cedar thicket. As usual they were in an old crow nest,

fifteen feet up a small cedar. The Long-eared Owl is a regular but by no means common breeder in this section. The behavior of this particular female was so unusual that a short description may prove of interest.

When first discovered this bird paid no attention to kicks or shakings at the tree's base and only left her nest when I reached her level in another sapling a yard away, then reluctantly, with ruffled feathers and snapping beak. She was now completely carried away with wrath and excitement, attempting to return to her nest, then alighting momentarily on the dead limbs of a nearby oak, swelling to twice her natural size, and her eyes fairly blazing. All the time she was uttering the loud "yows" and low, throaty growls such as precede a fight between angry tom cats. The similarity of tone was so great that it seemed impossible that the sounds issued from the throat of a bird. This performance was kept up for fifteen or twenty minutes, the bird frequently approaching within three feet. Finally I retired and studied her from a distance with binoculars. Her fury gradually subsided, though she trembled and shook and jumped at imaginary sounds, being evidently in a highly nervous state.

Friends with a camera the following day found her less excitable, and not so inclined to approach closely. Later in the week, when Dr. W. D. Richardson made a special trip to interview her, thoroughly equipped for taking pictures, she absolutely refused to perform, though using her remarkable vocal powers to the fullest. Unfortunately this nest was broken up, presumably by boys, so we had no further opportunities to study her interesting behavior. The male was shy at all times, giving cat calls from a safe distance.

Phlæotomus pileatus abieticola (Northern Pileated Woodpecker).—Certainly has not decreased and has probably increased slightly in the river timber in the last eight years. On the fine bright evening of April 17, with the last of the snow on the ground from the terrible blizzard of the previous twenty-four hours, the rolling tattoos of these fine birds and their smaller kin, and the calls of the Red-bellied Woodpeckers particularly, were the predominating sounds of the river timber, followed as darkness fell, by the equally characteristic notes of the numerous Barred Owls.

A nest of the pileated was found April 11, the female appearing at her door about twenty feet up a dead soft maple

as I knocked, and flying immediately she recognized her caller. Fresh chips on the ground first attracted my attention. The contents of this nest was never ascertained, as to do so would have necessitated destroying the site. On the evening of May 15, over a month later, the Richardsons, Mr. Laws, and I visited the nest again, Dr. Richardson hoping to secure Graflex pictures of the woodpecker leaving the hole. This time the male was in the cavity, and pound the tree as we would at the base, we could not drive him out. At every hard knock his head would bob out an inch or so, as if driven by the force of the blow. He was only induced to leave when I climbed half way up and drove him out an inch at a time by repeated hammering! I firmly believe that the scarcity of these fine birds over a large part of their former range that is still suited to their requirements, is directly due to the shooting of every one that shows his red head, by so-called sportsmen. No true sportsman would wantonly kill such a picturesque and beneficial creature.

Empidonax virescens (Acadian Flycatcher).—Hardly as plentiful in the Baraboo Bluffs as in 1913, when many pairs nested near the headwaters of Otter Creek. Two examples were collected here, however, and a number seen and heard. A typical nest and four heavily incubated eggs were found June 12. This species is probably not as rare in southern Wisconsin as formerly supposed. Two or three pair were noted in a tamarack swamp at Calhoun, Waukesha County, on June 26.

Corvus b. brachyrhynchos (Crow).—This abundant rascal is only included because of a point of special interest. Winter roosts of the Crow are well known and have been frequently described, but I have been unable to find any records of summer roosts. Approximately five hundred Crows roosted in the Sauk City cemetery and across the road in evergreens surrounding an unused house. This daily gathering was first noticed by me on April 20, the first time I happened to be in the vicinity in the evening, and the birds still frequented the roost in undiminished numbers up to the time of our departure, June 13. They straggled in from all points of the compass about sundown, sometimes alighting in a mass in neighboring fields, or perhaps sitting around in the trees having a good time generally till roosting time. Soon after daylight they vacated the roost and left the vicinity with much cawing and general crow-racket. At first I had assumed that these were non-breeding

birds, but one shot and examined proved to be a breeding male. From the glossiness and sleek appearance of the others it seems likely that they were all males. At some future time I hope to study this roost carefully and examine a considerable number of the birds. This time was of course the height of the Crows' breeding season, and it would be interesting to know whether the females spend the nights alone at the nests, temporarily deserted by their irresponsible mates. Their relatives, the Bronzed Grackles, also have similar roosts, though the habit may be exceptional in both cases.

Sturnella neglecta (Western Meadowlark).—This fine songster is abundant on the sandy parts of Sauk Prairie. On all the low lands and in rich farming sections the eastern variety only is found, while throughout the sandy wastes the western bird holds forth in legions. The line of demarkation between these two varieties of Meadowlark as between the rich and poor land is quite sharply defined in this region. Nearby, in Dane County, in a sandy loam region, both varieties were noticed in close proximity. A nest of the Western Meadowlark with three eggs was found April 28, and another with four May 11, both in long dead grass in the sand prairie. Four males of each variety taken for comparison, show that the western bird is sufficiently lighter in coloration to make field identification easy and certain in favorable light.

Calcarius l. lapponicus (Lapland Longspur).—These longspurs gather by thousands on the sandy, weed-grown knolls in the southwestern part of Sauk Prairie during the latter part of April. They may increase day by day till the fields are alive with them, then some morning we find them gone, with the exception of a few scattering flocks. April 28 thousands were present, while next day not over fifty were seen. A few large flocks were noted in the fields near Fox Lake, Dodge County, as late as May 18. Specimens collected the last week in April were in almost complete summer plumage.

Calcarius pictus (Smith's Longspur).—These birds, ordinarily rare in Wisconsin, were seen in small numbers among the Laplands April 27 and 28, and two females and one male were collected, in almost complete summer dress. On the latter date between twenty and thirty were seen.

Chondestes g. grammacus (Lark Sparrows).—Small colonies of these handsome sparrows were noted at various places in Sauk County, and to a lesser extent in Columbia and Dane.

Rather common locally in Sauk County, around the sandy, grassy fields at the foot and part way up the sides of bluffs. Small colonies were seen on the bald tops of certain high bluffs in Columbia County, in grass and weed patches, near the gravelly spots where the Nighthawks lay their eggs. In the township of Mazomanie, Dane County, a small colony has been located for years on a bit of waste land a short distance from the river. In a general way it may be said to be partial to sandy or barren spots grown up to short grass or weeds in places that are seldom plowed.

Zonotrichia l. leucophrys (White-crowned Sparrow).—An adult female taken in the Baraboo Bluffs, Sauk County, June 6, suggests the possibility of their breeding here.

Spiza americana (Dickcissel).—A great Dickcissel year in all parts of southern Wisconsin visited. Riding along the country roads, singing males were noted as averaging six to ten to the mile. In many of the hay fields they were the commonest birds, at least three or four pair per acre.

Seiurus motacilla (Louisiana Water-Thrush).—These shy, elusive creatures are regular migrants in small numbers along the Wisconsin River valley, and a few pairs breed near the source of Otter Creek, a rushing trout brook in the Baraboo Bluffs. June 27, 1913, a nest with one egg was found, in a pocket in the bank of the brook. A few days later, finding it deserted, it was collected, as well as an adult of this species that frequented the vicinity. This spring (1921) I made a special effort to get a satisfactory breeding record, but the nearest I came to it was finding a pair June 6 feeding a big lubberly Cowbird. The female parent was collected for identification.

An early record is a specimen collected in the river bottoms in Sauk County April 17, the day after the blizzard. The bird was in the snow by a slushy pool. Although there were four or five inches of snow on the ground, S. Paul Jones and the writer listed fifty species of birds in these sheltered bottoms. This disastrous storm must have destroyed every Woodcock and Prairie Horned Lark nest in the southern counties of Wisconsin.

Thryomanes b. bewickii (Bewicks Wren).—At least two pairs of these wrens appeared in the vicinity of Prairie du Sac this last spring (1921) and I tried without success to collect a specimen to establish a clear record for the State. My friend, Mr. Albert Gastrow, told me of a species of wren new to him

that had been singing around his farm in Columbia County for a number of days. On going here on the evening of May 26 the bird was immediately located and satisfactorily studied at close range with binoculars. The white edging to the long tail and line over eye are unmistakable. The specimen fell in a tangled mass of weeds and other debris on being shot, and the best efforts of three of us hunting for half an hour failed to locate it.

Another pair took up quarters a mile away, near the east end of the Prairie du Sac bridge, just across the line in Dane County. Mr. Gastrow was also the first to find this second location, one of the birds singing off and on all day near where he happened to be working. My friends, Warner Taylor and S. Paul Jones, later studied the bird to good advantage at different times and satisfied themselves as to its identity.

Bæolophus bicolor (Tufted Titmouse).—This is another species that is extending its range northward, following the Cardinal. While the latter were entirely unknown here previous to 1916, they are now one of the abundant residents of the river bottoms and adjacent regions. Therefore I was not surprised to hear the loud whistle of the Tufted Tit in the village of Prairie du Sac where the male of a pair was collected April 13, 1921. Two were heard calling in the river timber below Sauk City April 23. They have been reported and at least one taken at other points in southern Wisconsin recently also. Kumlien and Hollister (Birds of Wisconsin, 1903) say of this species, "A straggler from the south. In the museum of the University of Wisconsin there is a single specimen of the tufted tit, shot by Mr. N. C. Gilbert, December 15, 1900, near Madison. The bird was alone, and this is doubtless the only record for the state." At the present rate of extension this interesting bird, as well as the Cardinal, should be common in suitable localities in southern Wisconsin within a few years.